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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 RP-10  
DCT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 ACDA-12 AID-07 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /120 W  
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O R 252028Z JAN 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3984  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USUN NEW YORK 1074  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ( ) In Part (☒) In Full

( ) Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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USEEC

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/25/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHT SUMMARY - JANUARY 19-25, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0330

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE WEEK WAS MARKED BY A FLURRY OF GOVERNMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ARMS SEIZURES AND OF THE ARREST OF

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SUSPECT TERRORISTS. HOWEVER, THE GOA DOES NOT SEEM  
TO BE USING THESE REPORTS TO JUSTIFY A REVERSAL OF

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HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS TO DATE.

THE MILITARY, WITH MUCH HOOPLA ON JANUARY 22 SHOWED THE PRESS A RATHER IMPRESSIVE CACHE OF ARMS WHICH IT ALLEGES WERE DISCOVERED ACCIDENTLY RECENTLY AT A BUENOS AIRES WAREHOUSE FIRE (BUENOS AIRES 0330). THEN ON JANUARY 24 THE ARMY COMMAND IN ROSARIO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE EXHIBITING WEAPONS IT STATED WERE CONFISCATED THERE AND IN SANTA FE RECENTLY. THE TWO ARMS CACHES WHICH THE MILITARY STATED BELONGED TO THE MONTONEROS WERE SIMILAR: AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, BAZOOKAS, GRENADES, AND AMMUNITION. THE ROSARIO CACHE, WHICH ALSO CONTAINED HIGH EXPLOSIVES, WAS ALLEGEDLY USED TO SUPPLY THE MONTONERO GROUP WHICH ATTACKED THE HOME OF WALTER KLEIN IN SEPTEMBER. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SECURITY FORCES IN THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE TOWN OF AZUL HAD ARRESTED FIVE YOUNG MEN WHO WERE USING FORGED MILITARY IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. AS THE FOREGOING SUGGESTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO HAVE SUCCESS AGAINST THE MONTONERO TARGETS. THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO US THIS WEEK BY THE REMARKS OF A HIGH-LEVEL GOA OFFICIAL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT IN RECENT COUNTER-TERRORIST OPERATIONS THE SECURITY FORCES HAD FOUND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT THE TERRORISTS INTENDED TO ATTACK RANKING GOA OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ, AGAINST WHOM, THE DOCUMENTS SHOW, THE TERRORISTS HAD CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED SURVEILLANCE. WHILE OBVIOUSLY HAPPY TO USE THESE SEIZURES TO UNDERLINE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A TERRORIST THREAT, THE GOA DOES NOT SEEM TO BE EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO

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ALARM THE PUBLIC. ON THE ONE HAND, THE ARMY TOOK THE PAINS TO DENY PRESS REPORTS THAT THEY HAD BROKEN UP A TERRORIST CELL IN MAR DEL PLATA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY FIFTH CORPS, GENERAL JOSE VILLAREAL, PUBLICLY REITERATED THAT TERRORIST HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, ADDING THE CAVEAT THAT AS IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY THEY STILL RETAIN THE CAPABILITY FOR ISOLATED ACTS.

. MORE SKEPTICISM ON THE RIGHT OF OPTION: A HIGH LEVEL GOA OFFICIAL TOLD US THIS WEEK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENSE DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF USING THE RIGHT

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OF OPTION PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, SECURITY FORCES HAVE RECENTLY DETERMINED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE MONTONERO KILLED IN THE ATTACK ON FRANCISCO SOLDATI LAST NOVEMBER SEVERAL BENEFICIARIES OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM RETURNED TO ARGENTINA TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST OPERATIONS. WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ALLEGATION, INCLUDING THE NAMES OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

4. THE UNHRC: WESTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE CALLED THEM IN LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE UNHRC. THE ARGENTINES TOLD THESE EMBASSIES THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER A "VOTE AGAINST ARGENTINA" AS AN "UNFRIENDLY ACT." HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN OFFICE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE WHAT THEY WANTED FROM THE EUROPEANS IN TERMS OF VOTING. (WE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AS A RESULT OF PART OF ITS CONSULATATIVE PROGRESS IS SEEKING TO COME UP WITH A COMMON POLICY TOWARDS ARGENTINA--ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALL OTHER ISSUES. THE FIRST CUT AT THIS POLICY PAPER WILL BE DRAFTED IN BUENOS AIRES WITH THE BRITISH EMBASSY CHARGED WITH PREPARING THE PAPER.)

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